

THE DAILY
SHORT STORY

A Manufactured Romance

By H. IRVING KING

The engagement between Gertrude Kendrick and Ernest Maraden had been broken off. The fact made excellent table-talk for two whole weeks in the most select circles. It was all the more interesting because no one knew anything at all about the details of the matter and so everybody had his or her own version—which was quite as authentic as the version of anybody else—and would give fancy a free hand at embroidering it.

There was no scandal attaching to the average of diplomatic relations between Ernest and Gertrude; the most malicious could not suggest that. He was a model young man and she was a model young woman, both of the best social standing and so publicly known and officially listed. The affair could afford at most no more than a pleasing opportunity for polite and entertaining gossip. Now, though no one of Mrs. Van Tappen's table had the true story—interesting and circumstantial as all the versions were—it was really this case party (the engagement had become convinced that the other party loved and some else and was holding to the contract through a sense of duty and honor).

It all came about through Aunt Cynthia—Gertrude's aunt—who was a romantic old spinster and a born meddler. The loves of Gertrude and Ernest were entirely too commonplace to suit Aunt Cynthia who was a great reader of those triangular love stories in which the angles violate all the laws of plain and spherical geometry, and the two misadventured couples have Santa's own time in rearranging matters more to their liking without getting arrested for bigamy. To Aunt Cynthia a humdrum courtship, a prosaic marriage and "they lived happily ever after" appeared entirely abnormal, so she set about to mold the love affair of her niece a little nearer to the standard of her beloved fiction.

The material she had to work with was distressingly scant, but a meddling woman of experience and skill can accomplish wonders with very little—if she is conscientious worker.

Gertrude knew that before she and Ernest had met and fallen in love he had been rather attentive to Flora Wardell, and Ernest was aware that when he appeared on the scene to become the accepted suitor of Gertrude her heart was being besieged by Arthur Greene. But, bless you! these were mere youthful episodes—gone with the snows of yesterday and seldom remembered even by the four young people involved. This was all the material Aunt Cynthia had to work with, and too much praise cannot be awarded her for the skill with which she handled it.

She revived Flora Wardell for the benefit of Gertrude and resuscitated Arthur Greene for the benefit of Ernest. By talking first to one and then to the other she finally got Ernest to suspect that Gertrude still loved Arthur—something she had never thought of doing—and persuaded Gertrude that Ernest's affections still lingered about Flora Wardell—where they had never been.

Gertrude was the first to succumb. She wrote Ernest a letter telling him that he was free, their engagement had been a mistake, she was sure his heart was another's—and a lot more baldheaded inspired by Aunt Cynthia. Ernest saw in this letter a confirmation of his suspicions that Gertrude's affections were really fixed elsewhere and so replied, magnanimously releasing her from her engagement. Of course both the young people were heartbroken—but Aunt Cynthia was triumphant. A few days after the interchange of releasing letters Ernest saw the names of Gertrude and Aunt Cynthia on the passenger list of an outgoing European steamer and then on the same list the name of Arthur Greene.

Two days later Ernest was spending out of Jersey City bound for California's Golden Gate, the cherry blossoms of Japan and the spice islands of the south seas. And he didn't care whether the train ran off the track, the steamer sank or what happened to him. A year later, after restless wanderings in realms afar, he found himself at Algiers and at the Hotel Splendide, which, from the palm-clothed heights of Maitland Superior, looks down on the ancient city of the Barbary pirates and the blue waters of the Mediterranean. Turning over the leaves of the hotel register upon his arrival to see if by any chance any of his New York acquaintances were stopping there, he came across the names of "Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Greene."

It was a shock. He had expected it, of course. But not then and there. He strolled musingly out upon the broad terrace, and there, leaning upon the parapet, looking down at the blue sea, was a well-remembered figure. As he approached Gertrude turned and faced him with a little start.

"This is an unexpected meeting," said he, raising his hat formally. "The fact is, I have been rather out of the world for the past year, but on my arrival just now I saw the names of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Greene on the hotel register, and I beg to offer my somewhat delayed."

A look of comprehension came into Gertrude's face, and to Ernest's bewilderment, she cut him short with a laugh and exclaimed, "Why, here they come now!"

Onions

By BERTHA E. SHAPLEIGH
Of Columbia University

Usually, onions are boiled to be served at dinner, and butter, salt, pepper, and occasionally, cream, added.

Onions, baked, are very good and a change from the boiled ones.

12 medium-sized onions
4 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons chopped parsley

1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon paprika
1 teaspoon sugar

Peel and parboil onions 10 minutes. Mix butter, lemon juice, parsley and seasonings, to a paste. Place onions in a baking dish and divide the butter mixture, placing a little on each onion. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water to dish and bake slowly for one hour. Keep dish covered until 10 minutes before onions are to be taken from the oven.

Gertrude and Ernest had a long, explanatory, heart-to-heart talk on the broad of which was swept away forever the airy fabric of Aunt Cynthia's romantic imaginings. The sailing of Arthur on the same ship with Gertrude and her aunt after the catastrophe of the year before had been a mere coincidence.

Chaperoned by Aunt Cynthia, Gertrude had wandered about the geography trying to forget, but only succeeded in becoming more and more doubtful of the truth of her suspicions, regarding Ernest's love for Flora, and more remorseful at what she had done in breaking their engagement. The arrival at Algiers of Arthur and his bride had confirmed her in her suspicion, and she had been dreaming and longing for Ernest when he had found her on the terrace.

The greatest satisfaction in the whole business was expressed over Mrs. Van Tappen's tea-cups: "Wasn't it a delightful little romance! They ran across each other again at Algiers and were married at St. George's, Hanover square, on their way home."

Aunt Cynthia was highly elated—had she not turned a prosaic courtship into a charming little romance? Nobody in short had suffered but Ernest and Gertrude, and they had come into such happiness in the end that they did not have the heart to begrudge their friends and relatives the pleasure they took in a romance so entirely delightful to everybody except the victims.

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HOODSVILLE

Albert Burns and Wattle Moore visited friends in McDuryville Tuesday evening.

Russell Floyd of Grant Town was a business visitor here Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Kennedy spent Wednesday in Fairmont shopping.

Mr. and Mrs. Cobb Petty are spending a few days with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Layman of Ministers Run.

C. O. McDowell of Fairmont was a visitor at the Owens Dottle Co., Plant No. 3 recently.

William C. McComas and Miss Lamont, county home demonstrators, gave a short talk at Marvin Chapel Church Wednesday.

W. D. Darbo made a business trip to Fairmont Monday.

Walter Moore was a business visitor in Grant Town Thursday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Chase Michael are the parents of a baby boy born Thursday.

J. F. Toothman was a visitor here Thursday morning.

George Morris was a business visitor in Grant Town Thursday.

Boyd Tennant visited friends in Fairview Wednesday evening.

Perry Varner of McDuryville was a visitor in Grant Town Thursday.

Mrs. Dee Walker and daughter Dolly visited friends in McDuryville Wednesday.

Albert Burns visited friends in McDuryville Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. William Arnet and Miss Willard Sleeth attended revival meeting at Wesley Chapel Church Monday evening.

E. J. Barker made a business trip to Fairmont Saturday.

Chase Michael of Chunks Run was a visitor here Saturday afternoon.

M. E. Eddy was a business visitor in Fairmont Saturday.

Mrs. O. A. Keefover and son Vernon were visitors in Riverview Saturday.

Harry Martin visited friends in Fairview Saturday evening.

W. E. Eddy spent Saturday in Fairmont shopping.

Ray Martin was a visitor in Fairmont Saturday.

C. L. Riggs of Chunks Run spent Saturday morning in Fairmont shopping.

E. Ballah of Ministers Run was a visitor in Baxter Saturday.

Ruler Varner, who is employed at Scouts Run has returned to his home in McDuryville to spend Christmas with his father, Willam Varner.

Hoy Crouser, who is employed at Mannington, returned home Wednesday to spend a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Crouser of Ministers Run.

John Floyd of Ministers Run was a visitor at Baxter Saturday.

Ray Martin spent Saturday evening with friends at Riverview.

ADVENTURES OF THE TWINS

By OLIVE ROBERTS BARTON.

A Funny Letter



My, but it was dark!

Off went Nancy and Nick to get the notes out of the chimneys—notes that the children had written to Santa Claus to tell him just what they wanted for Christmas.

The first house they came to was Jimmy Jordan's out in the country. The twins, in their little Green Shoe, landed softly on Jimmy's roof. Then they tiptoed to the chimney and peeped down.

My, but it was dark! Dark and smoky, and had it not been for two magical masks that the Toy-maker had given them, I'm afraid they couldn't have breathed at all.

"Sh!" said Nancy softly. "We must be very quiet. Tweekanose, the wicked little gnome may be hiding somewhere. If he gets into the chimney ahead of us, he'll get Jimmy's letter and tear it up. You know he's a gnome and the gnomes are jealous of Santa Claus."

Suddenly Nick whispered, "There's the note! I can see it sticking between two bricks about half way down. Tweekanose didn't get it after all. You stay here and watch and I'll climb down and get it."

So Nancy stayed and watched for bad little Tweekanose, who got his name because he slipped into nurseries whenever he got a chance and tweaked the babies' noses and kept them awake. And while she watched, Nick climbed down the sooty chimney.

Pretty soon he came back with the letter, sooty to be sure, but easy to read for all that. Here's what Jimmy said:

"Dear Santa Kios: Please bring me a Christmas tree, and a pair of boots and a dying pig. Yours truly,

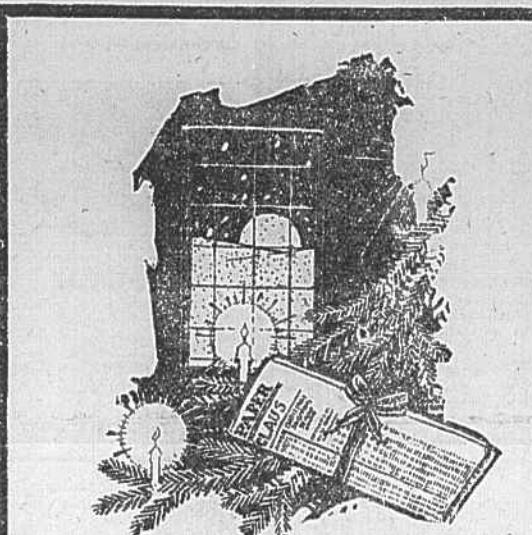
"JIMMY JORDAN."

"Of all things!" exclaimed Nancy.

"Just wait! Here's more," said Nick.

"P. S.—A dying pig is a balloon like a pig, that blows up and dies down."

(To Be Continued.)

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DOINGS OF THE DUFFS

Tom Gives His Alibi

BY ALLEMAN



METZ

Mrs. Emma Harter and sons, Carl and Marion of Grafton, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Campbell Sunday.

Mrs. Thomas Freeland and daughter, Thelma, of Clarkburg visited friends here Thursday.

E. Hearn spent the past week-end with his brother, Will Hearn of Farmington.

George Hillery of Akron, Ohio, visited friends here Saturday.

H. L. Campbell was the guest of his brother at Farmington Wednesday.

Miss Alma Dye was shopping in Mannington Saturday.

Henry Campbell was a business visitor in Mannington Saturday.

A number of local young people attended the box supper held at Seven Pines Saturday evening.

Miss Ida Ornduff was removed to her home here Sunday night from Mannington. Her condition at present is considered serious. She has been in poor health for several years, having spent part

of the time at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Miss Sadie Wilson was a business visitor in Mannington Saturday.

Jim Wilson visited in Mannington Saturday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Rastus Thomas of Clayville, Pa., and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Crouser of Waynesburg, Pa., who were called here by the death of Jesse Dodd, have returned to their homes.

Miss Leona Yost and Mr. Curt Brummage were shopping in Mannington Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Thomas and children, John and Twila of Rogersville, Pa., visited friends here Sunday.

A Christmas tree and program will constitute the features of the entertainment to be given at the

Union Church Saturday night. Miss Mabel Hawkinberry was guest of Miss Alma Dye Sunday.

Christmas entertainment will be held at the M. E. Church Christmas eve.

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